Two sets of elements and ephemerides for this comet have been derived by LEUSCHNER'S "short method" by the writer, with the assistance of Mr. A. J. CHAMPREUX. These may be found in Lick Observatory *Bulletins* Nos. 87 and 88.

RUSSELL TRACY CRAWFORD.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT, January 17, 1906.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF COMET *c* 1905.

Comet *c* 1905 was photographed at the Lick Observatory on nine different dates preceding its perihelion passage. The first photograph was taken on December 23, 1905, when the comet was comparatively faint and no suggestion of a tail was visible in the observing telescope. When the plate was developed the comet was found to have a tail extending several degrees from the nucleus. On account of stormy weather it was impossible to secure another photograph until December 28th. By this time the comet had become very much brighter, the tail being easily visible in the guiding telescope. This plate showed a tail extending a distance of eight or ten degrees from the nucleus, and much detail in its structure was brought out.

Subsequent plates recorded many changes in the structure of the tail, and gave evidence of rapid motion in the material composing it. The exposure times varied from half an hour to an hour, depending upon weather conditions and the position of the comet.

Besides the plates described above a series of trail plates was taken, from which it is hoped data of value may be obtained concerning the variation in brightness of the comet's nucleus.

At a later date the plates will be studied in detail. In the mean time a more extensive series may be secured. The comet has passed perihelion, and will soon be an evening object for telescopic observation.

January, 1906. ELLIOTT SMITH.

NOTE ON THE COMETS DISCOVERED AT THE LOWELL OBSERVATORY.

A telegram was received at the Lick Observatory on the evening of December 14, 1905, from Professor E. C. PICKERING

at the Harvard College Observatory, announcing that Mr. SLIPHER, at the Lowell Observatory, had discovered a comet by photography on November 29, 1905, in the position R. A. $22^h\ 44^m$; Decl. $-11°\ 18'$. No data were given as to the rate or direction of motion; hence, in view of the time interval since its discovery, it did not seem worth while to search the sky for this object.

Professor PICKERING'S astronomical bulletin, received a week later, stated that "the comet was moving 4′ per hour in a direction 15° north of west." It would be interesting to know how this direction was determined, since a trail on a single photographic plate would leave it ambiguous.

Another astronomical bulletin, received on December 29th, stated that Professor LOWELL had discovered a second comet on the same photographic plate in the position R. A. $22^h\ 34^m$; Decl. $-8°.7$, just to the northwest of Σ 2935. This object was moving 2′ per hour in a direction south by west or north by east, and had two tails.

The discovery of a comet by photography is unusual enough to be noteworthy, but to find two on a single plate is a unique achievement. It is unfortunate that these discoveries could not be announced in time to be verified by visual observations. It might be suggested that photographic defects often look wonderfully like comet trails; but it is of course assumed that Professor LOWELL took precautions to guard against such deception before announcing the discoveries.

January, 1906. R. G. AITKEN.

COMET *a* 1906 (BROOKS).

The first comet of the year was discovered by BROOKS, of Geneva, New York, on the night of January 26th, in R. A. $16^h\ 19^m.5$, and Decl. $+47°\ 10'$. Observations were secured by the writer on the following three nights and an orbit was computed at the Students' Observatory by Dr. CRAWFORD and Mr. CHAMPREUX. The comet was found to be moving in a practically parabolic orbit. According to the ephemeris, it will pass within about 5° of the north pole on February 18th.

It is a fairly easy object in a 3-inch telescope on a dark night. The nucleus as seen in the 12-inch seems about equal